

**Trip Report
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Gwich'in Council International
Whitehorse, Yukon
September 14-16, 2004**

Purpose of Trip

To attend the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) meeting.

Background Information

Heads of Delegation and Permanent Participants Meeting

Held Monday evening in order to make a decision on the agenda and be briefed on reports.

Tuesday September 14th

Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR)

Oran Young and Niels Einarsson presented the draft report. They were asked to look at language regarding sensitive issues. Although certain chapters were not as thorough as others, and lacked concrete follow-up, the authors were commended on what was represented given the short time period, and the inclusion of success stories from the Arctic. The AHDR will influence SDWG work through workshops or new and existing projects.

Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP)

Mechanisms to Implement SDAP

The head of the Russian Delegation, Boris Morgunov presented a revised version of the SDAP that took into account the comments made since the Selfoss Meeting. This new text will be used in the short report, while no consensus was made regarding the Mechanisms to Implement SDAP. A reminder was made not to duplicate the Swedish work in this area, but the revised draft was a good way to reference the Johannesburg (WSSD) outcomes concerning the Arctic Council. Creating a document with a clear status to be used as reference next year is planned.

WSSD Follow-up in the Arctic

Boris Morgunov presented the discussion paper on the "Realization of Decisions by the Johannesburg WSSD 2002 in the 2nd and Subsequent Stages of the Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) of the Arctic Council." The specifics of the WSSD Plan of Implementation relevant to the Arctic were outlined through the economic, social and ecological dimensions of sustainable development. The request made to the participants was for comments concerning language clarification to be sent to the author.

Wednesday September 15th

Requirements and endorsement of SDWG projects

An open ad hoc working group was formed and will be chaired by Sweden to create a discussion paper on application, endorsement alternatives and management of SDWG projects. Past work and other relevant documents will be taken into account, and the proposal will be presented at the first SDWG meeting in 2005.

Project Proposals

-Sustainable Development of Indigenous Peoples of Russian North (RAIPON)

The presentation was withdrawn, as RAIPON was not in attendance. It was noted that there is moral support for the project from the members. There is no formal backing from the SDWG, however an endorsement is needed in order to present it to the SAO's. This discussion will also be reported to the SAO's in November.

-Women and Resource Management in the rural North (Norway)

Joanna Kafarowski gave an update on the first phase of the project. The future of the rural North is threatened if women do not return to the communities, and can decide on how and what level they are included in the resource-based sectors. One comment to the authors was that they include freshwater fisheries / boreal taiga areas within the scope of the second phase. Chair Hugi Olafsson noted that there is support for continued phases/ project proposals.

-The Economy of the north: Impacts and effects of climate change (Norway)

This proposal in which current statistics would be looked at in order to assess the impacts and effects of climate change received a great deal of feedback from participants. AHDR author stated that the downfall is that the analysis mainly looks at market-based goods and away from the mixed economies of the north. Chair Hugi Olafsson stated that these preliminary comments will be summarized and trusts that the SAO's will consider them when looking at the proposal, while Norway said in the meantime it would be taken back to the lead author.

Ongoing Project Reports:

-Product Development and Processing in Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry

Patricia Wohl of the Northern Forum gave an update that the project is going smoothly and that Alaskan reindeer herders will go to Finland for training.

-Family-based reindeer herding and hunting

The head of the Norwegian delegation, Stein Rosenberg informed the participants that the project is ending soon and a report will be presented at the Fourth Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in November.

-Circumpolar Infrastructure Task Force (CITF)

The US delegation reported on each area within the CITF and a future conference at the Scott Polar Institute.

In the aviation sector, new flight service has been developed for east-west links like Alaska to Sakhalin, and CITF will continue the development of an Arctic Aviation Experts Group Database, among other things.

A telecommunications matrix is to be set up, as well as coordination with the Arctic Council's IT Working Group, and possibly a presentation for the Wireless Arctic Network to be considered as an Arctic Council program.

The Marine Transportation sector of the CITF has created a report outlining recommendations for future Arctic marine research topics, which had been derived from the Cambridge Arctic Marine Transport Workshop.

-International Circumpolar Surveillance (ICS): Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Arctic

The US delegation reported on the activities of the ICS and plans for 2004-2006.

Continued surveillance is slated for the next two years for a variety of infectious diseases, as well as programs and meetings throughout the countries of the north.

-Future of Children and Youth of the Arctic – Circumpolar Young Leaders Program

Lee-Anne Hermann of the Canadian delegation proposed the next phase of the Children and Youth project, including the creation of or continuation of the networking program, internships, website, youth camp and reference materials. Support was given to the next phase.

-Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic (SLICA)

Saami Council's representative Rune Fjellheim reported that although phase one has been completed, the second phase has currently been withdrawn. They will approach the SAO's in November concerning this.

Health Cluster

The discussion on Health Clustering within the AC SDWG was furthered by Canada in a Draft Discussion Paper (August 2004). Dr. Junanni Hassi of the Thule Institute at the University of Oulu in Finland sent an extensive response that the Head of the Finnish Delegation Sauli Rouhinen presented. He described how health factors known in the Arctic would be grouped. Comments were made in support of some form of cluster that could help enhance the policy decisions of the SAO's.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

ICT is now being considered by the SAO's. The US offered of a scoping workshop chair, which will be extended to the SAO's.

Thursday September 16th

SDWG future meetings and methods of work

SDWG Work Plan 2004-2006

Report of SDWG at Iceland Ministerial

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair: Boris Morgunov (elected)

Vice-Chair: Pavel Sulyandziga (remains)